



# Motorcycles in South Carolina

**You've got  
the bike and the gear.  
Now learn the facts.**

## SCDPS RIDESMART

### **CRASHES**

There were 1,819 motorcycle crashes in 2010.

Motorcycle fatalities accounted for 10% of total traffic fatalities in 2010, but only about 1.7% of crashes.

The number of motorcycle crashes increased by 5.8% and fatalities decreased by 10% from 2009 to 2010.

### **INJURIES, FATALITIES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS**

A total of 81 motorcycle riders were killed and an additional 1,984 were injured in 2010.

The average age for motorcycle fatalities in 2011 was 41 — the youngest was 15 and the oldest was 79.

In 2010, motorcycle injuries resulted in 751 hospitalizations and 2,963 emergency department visits with a total of \$73,718,189 in hospitalization and emergency room charges.

Motorcycle riders 19 to 24 years of age had the highest rate for emergency department visits (128.2 per 100,000 pop.) and motorcycle riders 45-54 years of age had the highest hospitalization rate (27.1 per 100,000 pop.) in 2010.

In 2010, the average hospital charge was \$78,825 and the average emergency department visit cost \$4,901.

71.4% of the South Carolina motorcycle operators involved in fatal crashes had a valid Class M permit or license.

The leading anatomic site for motorcyclist injuries resulting in an emergency department visit was upper limb fracture, which was the principal diagnosis in 11% of the total motorcyclist injury emergency department visits in 2008.

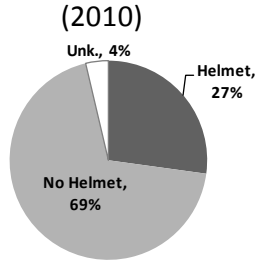
Among those hospitalized for motorcycle injuries that died in 2008, 74% had a traumatic brain injury.

*South Carolina has beginner and advanced motorcycle training classes available. See back for details.*

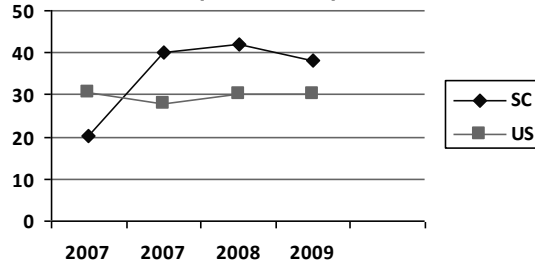
## Wearing a helmet and riding sober saves lives

- ◆ 69% of all South Carolina motorcycle riders killed in crashes in 2010 were not wearing a helmet.
- ◆ The South Carolina Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System analysis for 2008 showed that riders wearing helmets are 71% less likely to incur a traumatic brain injury than riders not wearing helmets.
  - ◆ Motorcycle helmets reduce the risk of dying in a motorcycle crash by 37%.
- ◆ 38% of all fatally injured motorcycle riders in 2009 had blood alcohol content levels at the legal limit (.08 g/dL) or higher.
  - ◆ The most common contributing factor in fatal motorcycle crashes in 2011 was riding while intoxicated.
  - ◆ Operating a motorcycle while intoxicated increases the likelihood of a fatal crash.

**Fatalities and Helmet Use**



**Fatalities and Blood Alcohol Content (2007-2010)**



## SOUTH CAROLINA MOTORCYCLE RIDER TRAINING CLASSES\*

**GREENVILLE COUNTY**  
 Greenville Technical College  
 216 South Pleasantburg Drive  
 Greenville, SC 29607  
 (864) 250-8800  
[www.gvltec.edu](http://www.gvltec.edu)

**SPARTANBURG COUNTY**  
 Spartanburg Community College  
 P.O. Box 4386  
 Spartanburg, SC 29305  
 (864) 592-4900  
[www.sccsc.edu](http://www.sccsc.edu)

**CHESTER COUNTY**  
 York Technical College  
 127 Saluda Street  
 Chester, SC 29706  
 (803) 385-5884  
[www.yorktech.edu](http://www.yorktech.edu)

**RICHLAND COUNTY**  
 Midlands Technical College  
 P.O. Box 2408  
 Columbia, SC 29202  
 (803) 732-0432  
[www.midlandstech.edu](http://www.midlandstech.edu)

**ANDERSON COUNTY**  
 Tri-County Technical College  
 P.O. Box 587  
 Pendleton, SC 29670  
 (864) 646-1700  
[www.tctc.edu](http://www.tctc.edu)

Cox's Harley-Davidson  
 1178 Galleria Boulevard  
 Rock Hill, SC 29730  
 (803) 327-1183  
[www.coxshdofrockhill.com](http://www.coxshdofrockhill.com)

Thunder Tower Harley-Davidson  
 190 Pontiac Business Center Drive  
 Elgin, SC 29045  
 (803) 461-1121  
[www.thundertowerharley.com](http://www.thundertowerharley.com)

**GREENWOOD COUNTY**  
 Piedmont Technical College  
 620 N. Emerald Rd.  
 Greenwood, SC 29648  
 (864) 941-8400  
[www.ptc.edu](http://www.ptc.edu)



**FLORENCE COUNTY**  
 Florence-Darlington Technical College  
 P.O. Box 100548  
 Florence, SC 29501  
 (843) 413-2715  
[www.fdtc.edu](http://www.fdtc.edu)

**AIKEN COUNTY**  
 Aiken Technical College  
 2276 Jefferson Davis Highway  
 Graniteville, SC 29829  
 (803) 593-9231 ext. 1230  
[www.atc.edu](http://www.atc.edu)

**HORRY COUNTY**  
 Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
 P.O. Box 1966  
 Conway, SC 29526  
 (843) 477-0808  
[www.hgtc.edu](http://www.hgtc.edu)

**ORANGEBURG COUNTY**  
 Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College  
 3250 St. Matthews Road  
 Orangeburg, SC 29118  
 (803) 535-1236  
[www.octech.edu](http://www.octech.edu)

**BEAUFORT COUNTY**  
 Technical College of the Lowcountry  
 921 Ribaut Road  
 Beaufort, SC 29901  
 (843) 525-8205

**CHARLESTON COUNTY**  
 Trident Technical College  
 P.O. Box 18067  
 Charleston, SC 29423  
 (843) 574-6152  
[www.tridenttech.edu](http://www.tridenttech.edu)

\*South Carolina classes are approved by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF).

**Data Sources:** South Carolina Office of Highway Safety, Statistical Unit; South Carolina Budget & Control Board, Office of Research & Statistics, Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) Project; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Motorcycle Fact Sheet produced by the South Carolina Office of Highway Safety in cooperation with the South Carolina CODES Project and South Carolina Motorcycle Task Force. Thanks to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia CODES Board and their program staff for providing assistance in the development of this fact sheet. Made possible by funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, contact the South Carolina Office of Highway Safety, Office of Highway Safety, 10311 Wilson Boulevard, P.O. Box 1993, Building D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Blythewood, SC 29016-1993. Phone (803) 896-9965 Fax (803) 896-9978